

Zero Beat



Our 55th Year

A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

November, 2000

*Going Once !!!
Going Twice !!!
SOLD!!!*

The Annual HCRA AUCTION is this Friday

SEE PAGE 7 for more details

Attention ALL Sellers and ALL Buyers:
You are cordially invited to attend the HCRA Auction
Anyone may participate Regardless of Club affiliation.
Radio and Computer equipment only, please.

Doors open at 6:30 Auction starts at 7:PM sharp!
Hope to see you there!!!



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President's



WB1HOF

Were you one of the lucky ones!

Corner

This month's corner is being written on the heels of a fantastically successful special event station at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Because Zero Beat's publication date is early this month, you will have to wait until next month for a full article with pictures.

What , no patience? Here's a quick run down of the operation. As in previous years, the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield allowed us to use their facility to set up a special event station during enshrinement weekend. A small team of antenna installers put up a 15M beam and 40M dipole on Friday. The operators showed up on Saturday, set up the two stations and were on the air by 10:00 AM Saturday. When we shut down operations Sunday afternoon, over 400 contacts were made, in many states and 17 countries. During this time we were able to showcase amateur radio to many of the Hall of Fame's visitors, including members of the Hawks basketball team. A special thanks to all who participated, contacted or both during the operation.

This is the final month of our membership drive. If the Zero Beat you are reading has a membership application on the inside cover, it means you have put off renewing for the last time! The HCRA needs your membership and support if we are to continue hosting events such as the Hall of Fame station. Don't delay, if you haven't renewed yet, fill out the form today and send it in. If you don't renew this month, it will indeed be your last Zero Beat.

There will be no guest speaker this month because of our annual auction. I don't want to belabor the event, but we need EVERYONE'S support to keep this the best amateur radio auction West of 495! Remember, Western Mass is unexplored territory to many people our East! Talk it up, mention it in casual conversation, especially on repeaters. Don't forget about the great raffle prize. Where else but at the HCRA auction can you get a chance to win a \$300 Icom IC207 radio for only a buck? All board members have raffle tickets to sell, please help us get the word out. The auction starts promptly at 7:30, so be there early for the best seats. If you are bringing things to sell, try to arrive by 6:30 so we can get everything set up. Have some items you might be embarrassed to take money for? Why not donate it to the auction and let the club profit from the sale? We would really appreciate it.

December's meeting will be our Holiday Party. This is held at the regular meeting room. Along with the party, a popular guest speaker will be returning. Dan, the former PanAm pilot who gave a great talk at the end of last year (albeit in the dark) will be back again. Let's hope the lights stay on this time! I'm sure Dan will have a few interesting stories to tell.

Speaking of the holiday party, now is the time to get in touch with Betty if you would like to help out with the function. There's not a lot to do, and early help with organization will be a big help. It would be best to contact Betty or myself directly, as we won't be able to conduct much club business at the auction.

Don and Joe are starting to lay the groundwork for an amateur radio class starting real soon. This is something that is really needed in the area. While manning the booth at the Big E and also conversation at the Hall of Fame station, the availability of training classes is always brought up. If we want to get more people interested and active in the hobby it's something we need to accomplish. There's more to it than just teaching the class, and any input or help would be greatly appreciated. Besides the actual instruction, we need a convenient location, advertising so people know about it, VE help with testing, etc. As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for almost anyone to get involved. So... let's get involved and see what we can accomplish.

See you at the auction!

Jim, WA1ZUH



Please
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Our Sponsors

HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
Vice-President	Jordan Koltz, W1JK	(413) 532-3729	w1jk@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	gstoddard@rcn.com
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU		kblmu@mindspring.com

HCRA DIRECTORS

At Large	Les Prentice, K1DNX	(413) 783-6775
Program	Irv Slitzky, W6IS	(413) 565-5222
Membership	Elizabeth Buller, KB1CPZ	perkyzebra@aol.com
Newsletter	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474
Technical	Stan Bates, N1INB	kx1x@arrl.net

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560	(let it ring)
		wluph2@juno.com	
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
WM1FD Trustee	John Pise, KX1X	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net

ON THE AIR

Please remember to join our Monday evening 10m Net

Join NCS Tom, N1MUV, On Monday nights, 7:30PM local for the

HCRA/W1NY 10m Net 28.375 +/- QRM

ARRL November Sweepstakes -- CW -- November 4-6

ARRL November Sweepstakes -- Phone -- November 18-20

CQ WW DX Contest -- CW -- November 25-26

ARRL 10m Contest -- December 9-10



DX Clips

de
Jordy, W1JK

This month or next month are typically the time frame in which I check my antennas. I consider a little preventive maintenance a necessary evil to thwart the evil intentions of Murphy and his dreaded law. I recommend a pre-winter checkup to everyone regardless of the complexity of your antenna system.

What should we check? The following are some of the more obvious items and are not intended to represent all potentially troublesome areas:

1. Traps: First visually inspect them for broken or missing end caps. These can allow water to enter and detune them. Also look for breaks or cracks in the outer aluminum tubing. Also check the element clamps for tightness and check for obvious signs of insect infestation. Use a can of compressed air to blow any out. If you are a perfectionist, check them with a grid - dip meter. This is probably not necessary if you have a good SWR meter and the Antenna checks within specifications. Ten meter traps are resonant at approx. 27.6 MHZ and 15M traps at approx. 20.6 MHZ. Be sure to couple the Grid Dip coil to the outer end of the trap to obtain true resonance.

2. the Balun should be checked also. A 3 - 30 MHZ 1:1 Balun will show a DC short when checked with an Ohmmeter. If you connect a non - inductive 50 Ohm load across the terminals this will allow you to check operation on the bands of operation. Be careful - the load must be able to handle the power level of your transmitter. I have an SWR "analyzer" and only need use a 2 watt 50 ohm carbon composition resistor (eg. Non-inductive) connected with heavy braid. the Balun should show less than 1.2:1 VSWR. Some Baluns will show an open circuit if checked with an Ohmmeter.

3. Inspect Yagi and Vertical Ant. mounting bolts. Do not tighten unless necessary. remember you are dealing with soft aluminum.

4. Inspect the feedline as it connects to the "matching unit". Re-tape or seal if needed. Now is the time replace old weathered feedlines - before the cold wx compromises its flexibility and inhibits soldering.

5. Check the coax "loop" at the Rotor and ascertain that it is securely attached to the mast at both loop ends.

6. Check the rotor mast brackets and the rotor cable. Be sure the rotor bracket bolts are secure (don't over tighten) and that the cable is OK. If you are using the "old" Ham IV screw terminal connectors - check that it is well sealed and no corrosion is evident at the screw connections. Reseal !! If your Ham IV has the newer Cinch type cable connectors, check that the sealant is not cracked. Reapply if necessary. You don't want water to get in & corrode the connector pins. This will surely create Rotor operational problems. When the WX is very cold, you need all the "juice" to turn the unit.

7. Check the Coax and Rotor cable "run" down the tower & replace broken or frayed nylon ties.

8. If your tower is guyed - check the cable condition & the turnbuckles for proper "slack" in the guys. Replace rusted turnbuckles. They are a "weak link" in many installations. Always replace turnbuckles when new guys are installed. Some of the above apply to vertical antennas as well. Dipoles should be checked to ascertain that they are secure and feed lines should be checked for integrity.

In conclusion - inspect all the basic antenna components for wear, rust, etc. This Winter promises to be Super for DX. Don't lose your "golden opportunity" because of carelessness or oversight. The next Sunspot peak is many years away.

LOOK FOR:

K5K - Kingman Reef: Don't miss this rare one. They may operate until Nov 2. This is a large DXpedition & there will be many opportunities for you to work them on all bands.

A6 - United Arab Emirates: Frank, DL2CC will be active as A61AJ thru Nov 1 including CQWW SSB contest on all bands. QSL is assured via Bernie - W3UR.

CE0X - San Ambrosio Island - Marco, CE6TBN is the team leader for this 2001 DXpedition, plan for it in February.

D68 - Comoros: there is a planned DXpedition here in early Feb, 2001.

E3 - Eritrea: E30TA is active thru Nov 1. Chris (DL5NAM) & Dieter (DF4RD) are on all bands. QSL to DL5NAM.

EZ - Turkmenistan: Alex, EZ8CQ will be active on RTTY in early November. Look for him. QSL via W0FS.

FM - Martinique: Gerard, F2JD is there for 6 months at least as FM/F2JD.

FO0 - Austral Islands: Look for FO0WEG w/ operator Janusz/SP9FIH and Rafai/SQ9LR until Nov 4 on 80-6M. QSL to SP9FIH.

FO0 - French Polynesia: Bill, W1HIJ/6 will be active as FO0SCH until Nov 8 on mostly CW & some SSB & PSK31 on 20/15/10M. QSL via W6UFT.

FS - French St. Martin: The NJDXA & West Essex clubs will be there Dec. 5-12. QSL via the callsign worked.

J2 - Djibouti: David, F5THR is signing J28EX & will be there for 2 years.

HB0 - Liechenstein: a group of HA ops there from Nov 1-8 as HB/HA5RT/p. QSL contest calls via HA5RT & all others via home calls given.

T2 - Tuvalu: Tusti, T2DX is now active & has been QRV on 20, 15 & 10M. QSL via W4WET.

VK9L - Lord Howe Island: Look for VK9LEH from Oct 31 to Nov 6 on 20, 15 & 10M CW & possibly the newer bands. QSL via AA4EH.

See you next month.

'73 De Jordy - W1JK W1JK@earthlink.net



Winter Storm Terms

de **Eric Tuller N1QKO**

Hello to all, Now that summer is over and the leaves are falling. It's time to get ready for winter. I'd like to re familiarize you with the different watches and warnings that you may here on TV or NOAA weather Radio.

WINTER STORM WATCH: sever winter weather conditions may affect your area.
(freezing rain, sleet, heavy snow may occur)

WINTER STORM WARNING: severe winter weather conditions are imminent or occurring.

HEAVY SNOW WARNING: a snow fall of at least 4 inches in 12 hours or 6 inches in 24 hours is expected. (under certain conditions, heavy snow may be included in Winter Storm Warning)

BLIZZARD WARNING: considerable falling and/or blowing snow and winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours.

HIGH WIND WARNING: sustained winds of at least 40 miles per hour or gusts of at least 50 miles per or greater are expected to last for at least one hour.

Know how to protect your self:

BEFORE THE STORM: prepare- automobile, battery powered equipment, heating fuel, food, and other supplies.

DURING AND AFTER THE STORM: dress warmly-wear multiple layers of clothing, scarves, mittens.

AVOID TRAVEL: if stranded, stay in your vehicle, keep it ventilated, bundle up.

AVOID OVEREXERTION: shoveling snow or freeing stuck vehicles can be extremely hard work. Don't overdo it!

WB1HOF -- World Basketball Hall of Fame

HCRA Basketball Hall Of Fame (wb1hof) special event took place October 14-15 at the Basketball Hall of Fame Springfield Ma.

I am pleased to report the event was a complete success. The station made over 400 Q's during the two days

of operation on 15 and 40 meters. Best of all everyone that participated

had a real fun time and was very much enjoyed by all. Must of us that

were there had the chance to meet the new and some of the past Hall of Famers.

We even witnessed the ground breaking for the new building.

On behalf of the officers and directors of HCRA THANK YOU to all of you that participated.

de Irv w6is



Emergency Coordinator's Corner

2000 Simulated Emergency Test WMass Section

de KB1MU, Dave Isham



DATE NOV. 4 SATURDAY
TIME 9:30 - 11:00 AM EST.

The statewide net will be on 3.943 Mhz with back up frequency of 3.937 Mhz.

The plan is to operate between 9:00 am- 3:00 pm EST

There will be 6 meter capability to connect to Belchertown if region 1 is open.

Dave, KB1MU, will conduct a packet operation during the set.

Connect to KB1MU via the Mt. Tom node (145.05)

Dave will attempt to pass traffic to those who log in.

See you at the SET and keep those batteries charged. Dave KB1MU

Whats Happening???

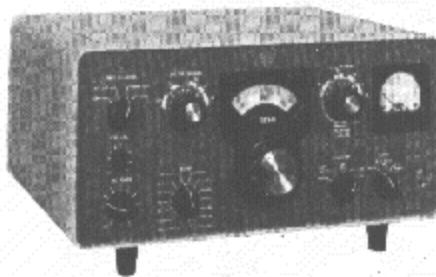
On The Air

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net (ncs K1PAI Roger)	1 st Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000
Club Meetings & Testing Sessions			
1 st Friday of the month Church	18:30	HCRA board meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building
4 th Friday of the month Auditorium	18:00	License Exams	506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA Holyoke Hospital
4 th Sunday of the month 146.91 for directions)	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Beech St., Holyoke Pittsfield MA (call on

Please forward additions and suggestions to: Stan Bates, n1inb seb@wca.com

(All times Local)

**FANTASTIC RAFFLE PRIZE
ICOM IC-207H
DUAL BAND MOBILE**



AUCTION

November 3rd !!!

Turn your old 'stuff' into cash!

- Set-up at 6:30 PM
- Auction starts at 7:30 PM
- Win an ICOM Mobile !
- Coffee & Donuts!

Contact Jim, WA1ZUH, for details - 413-245-3228 or jmullen@rockys.com



Auction held at:

Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Just North of Dunkin' Donuts at the
intersection of routes 57 and 139.
Talk-in on the 146.94 repeater

AUCTION RULES:

Amateur radio or computer related items only.
Mark all items with name/call and minimum
acceptable bid.
Items without minimum will sell at any price!
10% of selling price goes to the HCRA.

If it doesn't sell - you bring it home!

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION Board of Directors meeting Oct 6, 2000
Held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church

HCRA Officers present were Jim Mullen, WA1ZUH, Greg Stoddard, N1AEH, Dave Isham, KB1MU, Stan Bates, N1INB, Les Prentice K1DNX and Irv Slitsky K6IS.

MEMBER REPORTS:

Treasurer: Monthly report

The treasury balance for is now \$2077.00. As of this meeting we have 28 paid-up members.

Secretary:

Thank you notes were sent to those who donated equipment and generous cash donations. An issue of ZeroBeat was sent to Alex Lentini for him to scrutinize with the intent of placing an advertisement in ZeroBeat. All currently paid-up members have been added to the database

Vice President: Not present

Zero Beat: Not present

Big E Station: The Big-E day went well

Special Event Station: Setup of equipment will take place on Friday prior to the event.

Education: Don Johnson (W1UPH) is planning classes starting in Jan 2001..

Program: Speakers are now in place from now through the new year. Many potential speakers for the remainder of 2001 have been contacted.

Technical: During the meeting, Stan will ask for volunteers to participate in a "show+tell" session prior to monthly meetings.

Name Badges: Jim has made arrangements with a vendor to supply name badges for club members for approx. \$6.00. Members who desire name badges should contact Jim.

Web Page: Volunteers to setup and maintain "HCRA.ORG" will be solicited during the meeting and in ZeroBeat.

QSL Cards: QSL cards will be purchased to be used as a reply from those receive by the ten meter net. Also considered were "eyeball QSL" with info on meeting time and place. These would be used to handout to prospective members.

Swap & Shop

Classifieds available FREE to members of HCRA if space is available. Radio and Computer related equipment only, please.

FOR SALE:

1. Yaesu FT-101E with Matching Speaker, original box, manuals and Drake MN-4 Antenna Tuner
Above \$250.00 or best offer
2. Lafatette HA-600 Shortwave Radio and matching HE48c speaker - make an offer.
All items above are in good to excellent condition

Please contact: Larry - WB1DBY at 413-567-3505 or wb1db@arrl.net

**PLEASE!!!
Support Our
Sponsors
Let them know
That you saw their
Ad in
Zero Beat**

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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Eastern Regional Mgr.
KM4NZ

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1-800-444-0047

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Application for new or renewal membership

Personal Information:

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: Home (____) ____ - ____

Work (____) ____ - ____ - ____ ext

E-mail: _____ @_____ BIRTHDATE: ____ / ____ / ____

The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
Will be on Friday

November 3rd, 2000

At 7:00 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Doors open at 6:30 PM

Hope to see you there!

*In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40, or on the
146.94 and 147.105 repeaters.*

Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

PLEASE HAND CANCEL

AUCTION AUCTION
AUCTION
The Annual HCRA Auction
Is this Friday, Nov 3rd
Hope to CU There